

November 25, 1985

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.  
HSE 416

Dear Harold:

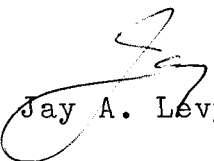
I received your recent letter concerning the naming of the AIDS virus. I once again thank you for your efforts with this task; I certainly hope we can reach a decision in the very near future.

I personally would like to see the name carry only three letters and thus would favor "human immune deficiency virus" (HIV). However, not to make things more complicated, one should consider the recent evidence that the virus replicates in the brain and gives rise to encephalopathies. In this case, it could be given the name, "human immune deficiency/encephalopathy virus" (HIEV). This type of name has already been used for the caprine arthritis/encephalopathy virus (CAEV).

In order that this suggestion be given a fair review, I would prefer you didn't cite it as my suggestion, but just send it as an idea for others to consider.

Please let me know if I can be of any further help to you in the resolution of this problem.

With kind regards,

  
Jay A. Levy, M.D.